



WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1943.

R.W. ELDRIDGE
M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL .- 1943

CHAIRMAN - Councillor W.H.Cottrell, J.P. Poulton-with-Fearnhead.

VICE-CHAIRMAN - Councillor E.R.E.Thornton, Penketh.

Councillor T.Forshaw, J.P. Burtonwood.

Councillor J.C.Warburton, Croft.

Councillor H.B.Wright, J.P. Guerdley.

Councillor J.J.P.Palin, Great Sankey.

Councillor A.S.Brewer, Rixton-with-Glazebrook.

Councillor E.Smethurst, J.P:C.C: Winwick (St.Oswalds Ward).

Councillor R.K.Wilson, Winwick (Houghton Ward).

Councillor R.Ryder, Woolston.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. R.W.Eldridge.

Senior Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.E.Breeds.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.A.Morrison.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Warrington Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the health of the district for the Year 1943, curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. All records are being preserved so that at a later date a full report can be given covering the period subsequent to 1939.

My thanks are due to the officials of the Council for their co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

R.W. ELDRIDGE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
7, Springfield Street,
Warrington.

1. STATISTICS

Area (acres)	22,840.
Estimated population 1943	26,000.
Number of inhabited houses	6,000.
Rateable Value.	£101,563.
Sum represented by a ld. rate	£554.11.5.

Vital Statistics.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births	233	227	460
Still Births	7	10	17
Deaths	121	111	232

There were 3 deaths from puerperal causes. The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 32 :-

Males 19 and Females 13.

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) -

R.W.Eldridge, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector -

W.E.Breeds, Cert.R.S.I. Meat Inspn. (Liverpool).

Additional Sanitary Inspector -

W.A.Morrison, (from 1st July 1942) Cert.R.S.I.
Meat & Foods Inspn. R.S.I.

General Services.

There have been no changes in the general health services for the area.

Laboratory facilities are provided mainly by the Warrington County Borough Health Department and also occasionally the Liverpool Public Health Laboratory.

Ambulances used for Infectious cases belong to the Warrington County Borough and Newton Urban District Authorities as the two hospitals for Infectious Diseases from the Warrington Rural District are in those areas. Ambulances for non-infectious cases are also provided by the same two Authorities.

The three Child Welfare Centres in the Rural District are under the Lancashire County Council. These are held in Padgate, Penketh and Burtonwood, and are well attended. At two of these clinics Immunisation work is carried out as part of the Immunisation scheme for the whole district.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

There were no changes during the year.

Public Cleansing.

The arrangements for public cleansing were completely re-organised during the year under the supervision of Mr W.A. Morrison the Additional Sanitary Inspector and the following is his report on the changes involved.

At the beginning of the year the cleansing service, after gradually deteriorating during 1942, became progressively worse until approximately 80 complaints per month were being received.

At this time the service was carried out entirely by Contractors and the excuses offered for insufficient service were always shortage of suitable labour or equipment.

In February 1943, the Council decided to place the whole of the cleansing service, the supervision of collection and disposal of refuse and the provision of dustbins and sanitary pails under the control of the Additional Sanitary Inspector, with instructions to re-organise the complete service.

Steps were taken to replace some of the more inefficient contractors but no suitable tenders were received and accordingly a direct labour scheme was commenced on the 1st March 1943, for the collection of 1,000 dustbins and 500 sanitary pails per week.

An immediate improvement was obvious in the parishes in question, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Woolston, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Winwick and Burtonwood. One contractor for sanitary pail collection was replaced and the number of complaints dropped to an insignificant average.

The success of the institution of a direct labour service which was started under great difficulties when suitable labour was very scarce, proves that under normal circumstances better service can be given to householders by this method than by contractors in most cases.

Generally, the whole service is satisfactory for the time being, but as soon as hostilities cease and suitable labour is available, a progressive step would be for this Council to attend to all the sanitary pails in the area. It is further suggested that a weekly collection of dustbins should be recommenced and that direct labour should be used where a contractor is unable to give as adequate a service.

4. HOUSING

No new houses were erected during the year. The majority of the working class houses are generally in good condition. There are a small number fit for demolition.

Delay in carrying out necessary repairs was common owing to the shortage of labour and materials but in all cases defects were eventually remedied.

A total of 394 inspections were made concerning defects in 171 houses. It was necessary to serve notices in respect of 14 houses before the necessary repairs were done.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

It was possible during the year to increase the number of inspections made of dairy farm premises. Their condition was on the whole good and in some cases structural improvements were carried out.

Number of dairy farm and cowkeepers	90.
" " milk purveyors	24.
" " inspections made during the year	120.
" " milch cows in the district	1,200.

22 samples were taken for examination to show the state of general cleanliness and of these 3 were found to be unsatisfactory. Improvements followed after consultation with the producers.

Slaughter-houses and meat inspection.

There were no registered slaughter-houses during the year.

There was occasional slaughtering of pigs in various parts of the district. These were inspected in most cases.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There have been no notable outbreaks of Infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 104 cases of Scarlet Fever but all except a very few were quite mild. This is the usual experience at the present time.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Contd.)

Diphtheria

There were six cases of Diphtheria notified and these were removed to Hospital. On subsequent investigation however, only one of these was found to be suffering from true Diphtheria, the other five having had some different illness which had simulated diphtheria in the early stages. This means that in the year 1943 no child had Diphtheria and the only case which occurred was in a patient aged 34.

It is often difficult to be quite sure whether a child or other person is suffering from Diphtheria in its early stages or from some other disease such as Tonsillitis and it is not in the least surprising that cases are notified which later turn out to be not Diphtheria. The removal of these doubtful cases to a hospital which has all the necessary facilities is to be encouraged so that an accurate diagnosis can be arrived at speedily. If the disease is not Diphtheria the patient can soon be discharged but if it is a true case of Diphtheria, adequate treatment can be given at the right time, a vital point, thus eliminating that delay which is so dangerous at the onset of the disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation was carried out at sessions held for the most part on school premises and attended by private practitioners. A certain number have been done at the Child Welfare clinics in the district. Two injections of A.P.T. prophylactic serum were given at an interval of one month.

It has been the practice during the past year or two to concentrate attention largely on pre-school children, particularly at the time they reach the age of 12 months. This was desirable firstly because immunisation amongst school children has been more easily accomplished in the past, with the result that a higher proportion are now protected but secondly on account of the fact that the most dangerous period for children to have diphtheria is from 1 to 5 years of age.

The procedure is that when a child reaches the age of nine months the parents receive the following letter :-

Dear Sir (or Madam),

I understand that you have a child who has recently reached the age of nine months and I am anxious that you should have your child protected against Diphtheria at the earliest opportunity.

You will be aware that by means of two simple injections a child may be protected from Diphtheria. Seven out of every ten children in the Warrington Rural District have been treated in this way. The treatment is given at special clinics in one of

the schools in your neighbourhood.

It is well known that Diphtheria is a dangerous disease with serious after-effects and I hope that you will see the importance of protecting your child now in readiness for the years immediately ahead when he or she will be most likely to get the disease.

If you wish this to be done, will you please complete the enclosed consent form and return it to me. You will then be notified in the near future as to the time and place to attend.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. ELDRIDGE

Medical Officer of Health.

A form of consent is also enclosed and an envelope for return to the Health Office. This is followed up by a second letter three months later if no reply is received. In this way and by day-to-day propaganda of a more informal and personal kind at welfare clinics and during the course of the home visits paid by the health visitors, the proportion of children under school age who have been immunised has been considerably increased. It is estimated that by the end of the year 1943, of 2,000 school children in the district, 75 per cent were immunised and that of approximately 1,600 children under 5 years of age some 60 per cent had been protected. As no immunisation takes place during the first year, this latter figure really represents about 75 per cent of the age group 1 - 5 years which is the period involved. When the widely dispersed nature of the Warrington Rural District is remembered with the consequent difficulties of administering a scheme of this kind in the various parishes, many of them a considerable distance from a clinic, it may be taken as satisfactory that such a high proportion have in fact been immunised.

It is of interest to note that in the year 1943 there was no case of diphtheria in a child of any age and at the end of 1943 none had occurred in a child under five since January 1942.

The number of children immunised since the campaign first began in 1938 is shown in the following table :-

1938 - 1943

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Total
Children under 5 years of age	-	119	147	500	416	309	1491
5 - 15 years	816	242	298	531	184	172	2243
Totals :-	816	361	445	1031	600	481	3734

Scabies

At the beginning of 1943 this Council made an arrangement with the Warrington Health Department for the treatment at the Scabies Treatment Centre in Warrington of persons suffering from Scabies who reside in the Warrington Rural District.

Local doctors were informed of these facilities and requested to notify the Medical Officer of Health of cases which came to their notice and cards were forwarded for this purpose. When information is received from any source that a person is suffering from Scabies, the County Health Visitor visits the home to ascertain the number of children and adults who require treatment. This information is handed on from the Health Department to the Warrington Health Department, the object being to make sure that as far as possible all persons suffering from Scabies in the same house should receive treatment at the same time, or at any rate on the same day. This is facilitated by the operation of evening treatment clinics in Warrington for those who are working during the day. Each person has two separate treatments and a subsequent medical inspection. A payment is made to the Warrington Corporation of five shillings per course of treatment for each case.

The scheme has worked very well and by the end of 1943 86 persons from the Warrington Rural District suffering from Scabies had received treatment in this way.

7. HEALTH EDUCATION

In October, 1943 a campaign was held in conjunction with the County Borough of Warrington, the Lancashire County Council and the Central Council for Health Education. The subject of this campaign was Venereal Disease.

It is clear that there are at least two aspects to be considered; prevention and treatment. The purely medical problem, the immediate question, is to take all the steps we can to make sure that those suffering from the disease are being treated. At first sight the necessity for this may cause surprise but experience shows that for a variety of reasons a considerable number of infected persons do not in fact receive the treatment they need.

With these considerations in view a joint campaign was arranged to cover Warrington and the Warrington Rural District. The objects were twofold; firstly, to bring before the adult population the principle facts about venereal disease, drawing their attention amongst other things to the disastrous consequences which may follow infection, and secondly, to put information before the public as widely as possible regarding facilities for treatment for those who are infected.

Posters were printed jointly for the two districts giving simple directions as to times and places of clinics and these were displayed in all suitable places. They were also exhibited on all the Warrington Corporation buses and advertisements appeared in the Press.

All the larger industrial concerns in the district were visited, usually at lunch hour meetings. A short talk was given and a film was shown. At the end of the meeting leaflets which had been specially printed for the district were distributed.

The meetings were very well attended and the management in almost all firms were most ready to co-operate in every possible way. Their co-operation was of course essential to the success of the campaign.

By this means an effort was made to see that ignorance was no longer a loophole to disease and to draw the whole subject out into the open with the hope of a diminution in the extent of venereal disease in the future.

The whole of the costs of this campaign were borne by the Lancashire County Council as this is the authority in control of all questions relating to venereal disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1943

There were 415 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of infectious diseases notified and the number removed to Hospital.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	104	-	3	3	9	5	50	22	4	8	-	-	-	61	-
*Diphtheria	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	6	-
Whooping Cough	56	1	7	7	5	7	28	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Pneumonia	34	4	1	-	4	-	5	-	-	3	5	8	4	-	-
Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	200	4	23	27	32	29	77	4	2	1	1	-	-	3	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	4	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1
Typhoid Fever	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-
	415	9	35	39	50	41	161	29	7	17	8	13	6	79	2

*Only one of these cases finally proved to be true diphtheria.

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CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Males	Females
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	6	2
Tuberculosis - other forms	4	1
Syphilis	-	-
Influenza	4	5
Measles	-	-
Polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis ...	-	-
Infec. encephalitis	-	-
Cancer, all forms	17	20
Diabetes	-	-
Intra-Cran: Vase: lesions	5	8
Heart disease	27	30
Other circulatory diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	8	4
Pneumonia	4	10
Other respiratory diseases	-	-
Peptic ulcer	2	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	3
do (2 years and over)	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digestive diseases	2	-
Dephritis	3	4
Puerperal sepsis.	-	-
Other maternal causes.. ...	-	3
Premature birth	-	4
Other causes at birth	11	4
Suicide	1	-
Road Traffic Act	3	1
Other Violent causes	1	3
All other causes	14	7
All causes	121	111

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1
5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
20	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
45	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	3	6	3	4	4	2	1
Grand Total	13		9		8		3	

